



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**Tom Horne**  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

March 4, 2003

Dear LEA Superintendent/Administrator:

Subject: NCLB 03-04 – NCLB Program Update

This is the fourth communication of key information regarding the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). In an effort to improve timely communication with our LEAs, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has created e-mail groups to transmit information directly from the state superintendent and the program offices of the department. For the first time, a copy of this NCLB update letter and the attachments will be e-mailed to district superintendents, charter school signers, and business managers, using these e-mail groups, in addition to the normal mailed copies. Please keep your e-mail addresses current with the ADE to ensure timely receipt of information.

In this update I am including information regarding Final NCLB LEA Consolidated Plans, certification of compliance with NCLB constitutionally protected prayer policy, on-site monitoring by ADE, announcement of training opportunities, paraprofessional testing, and highly qualified teachers.

**NCLB LEA Consolidated Plans and Applications**

The deadline for submitting your **Final NCLB LEA Consolidated Plan** has been extended to December 31, 2003. LEAs with *approved NCLB Interim LEA Consolidated Plans* will be eligible to apply for next year's (FY04) NCLB funds. Any LEA that does not have an *approved NCLB Interim LEA Consolidated Plan* **will not receive its allocation notice of available FY04 NCLB funds until all of the requirements for an approved plan have been met**. Attached to this letter is an outline of the requirements for a professional development plan (Attachment 1) that will be a part of your final consolidated plan. The complete template for the final plan is scheduled to be made available on the ADE web site after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Final plans may be submitted at any time after the web site is opened so that, if an LEA finishes its plan before the end of this school year, over the summer, or early in the fall, it may submit its plan upon completion and approval of the local board.

**Constitutionally Protected Prayer**

Section 9524 of NCLB – School Prayer - states that in order to receive funds under NCLB, an LEA must annually certify in writing to the ADE that no policy of the LEA prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools. In turn, the ADE is required to report to the ED a list of those LEAs that have not met this requirement. Attached to this letter is the Constitutionally Protected Prayer Policy Certification (Attachment 3), **which must be signed and returned to the ADE prior to March 15, 2003**.

**On-Site Monitoring**

The ADE has revised its monitoring protocol to reflect some of the changes as required by NCLB. A group of 50 LEAs will receive separate notification that the Academic Support Division staff will be conducting on-site visits this spring. The selected LEAs will **not** be required to complete the IASA Self-Assessment. They will receive the revised monitoring protocol prior to the visit that will outline the program areas that will be examined.

**Training**

The ADE will schedule separate training for LEAs on preparing the FY04 NCLB Consolidated Application and the Final NCLB LEA Consolidated Plan. The Comprehensive Health Programs office has scheduled four

trainings specific to the Title IV – Safe and Drug-Free Schools portion of the NCLB Consolidated Application throughout the state on April 8, 10, 16, and 30. Registration and site information is available from the on-line registration web site at [www.ade.az.gov/cal\\_conf\\_evnts.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/cal_conf_evnts.asp) under Student Services or by contacting Davidson Riggs at 602-542-8730. The Academic Support Division will schedule training for the NCLB Consolidated Application for Titles I-A, II-A, II-D, III, and V-A programs in May. Training on completing the NCLB Final LEA Consolidated Plan will be scheduled for both June and in the fall.

### **Paraprofessional Testing**

For paraprofessionals in Title I programs who want to use the third option of the NCLB requirements by meeting a rigorous standard of quality as demonstrated by a formal assessment, the ADE currently recognizes the *ParaPro* offered by Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a test that meets the NCLB requirements. Paraprofessionals in Arizona must score at least **459** on the *ParaPro* to meet the standard. Detailed information regarding paraprofessional testing, ETS, and the *ParaPro* was contained in the previous NCLB 03-03 update letter dated January 17, 2003. (This letter can be viewed at the NCLB Reauthorization link from the Academic Support home page at [www.ade.az.gov/asd/alert.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/alert.asp).) For LEAs that wish to participate in the Internet-based delivery of the *ParaPro*, please read the attached directions (Attachment 2) from ETS. The ADE does not provide registration for nor administer this test; it is solely the responsibility of ETS. LEAs will be notified when the ADE recognizes any additional commercial tests for paraprofessionals. The ADE will be monitoring any LEA-developed paraprofessional tests for compliance with the NCLB provisions.

### **Meeting the Requirements for HQ Teachers**

My staff and I have received numerous calls about the NCLB definition for highly qualified teachers. The NCLB requires that all core subject area teachers in Arizona meet the definition by the end of the 2005-2006 school year, regardless whether or not they are in a Title I school. The Academic Support Division, which includes the Certification Unit, is working with the State Board of Education, the colleges and universities that provide teacher training programs, and other stakeholders to provide guidance to LEAs and teachers regarding how Arizona's certification rules and teacher testing program can assist teachers in meeting the NCLB requirements as part of the overall state plan to meet the NCLB goal for all teachers to be highly qualified. Continue to check the NCLB web site on the ASD home page for further updates. The draft guidance from the US Department of Education is available at [www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/asst.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/asst.html), select Policy Guidance for Programs Implemented Under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and scroll down to *Draft Title II Non-Regulatory Guidance*.

The implementation of *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* continues to provide both opportunities and challenges for LEAs and the ADE. I hope that the adjustment in the deadline for Final Plan submission, the provision of technical assistance that accompanies an on-site visit, and the opportunities to attend training will assist both LEAs and the ADE to ensure that NCLB programs will lead to high academic achievement for Arizona's students.

Please direct any questions regarding this information to Richard Valdivia at [rvaldiv@ade.az.gov](mailto:rvaldiv@ade.az.gov) or 602-542-3270 or Nancy Konitzer at [nkonitz@ade.az.gov](mailto:nkonitz@ade.az.gov) or 602-542-7470.

Sincerely,

Julie Gasaway  
Acting Director  
Academic Support Division

Enclosures

Cc: NCLB Coordinators  
Human Resource Directors  
Business Managers